

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: R ELTZ DEW

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: R ELTZ

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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION S/S, NSC/E

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253651

TOSEC 12

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 2576 ACTION INFO ADDIS ABABA AMMAN BEIRUT
CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA LONDON USUN NEW YORK SECSTATE DATED 11/18/74.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2576

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US SU

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY SUDANESE ACTING FONMIN

REF: KHARTOUM 2566 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. DURING INITIAL CALL NOVEMBER 16, AMBASSADOR TOLD
ACTING FONMIN HIS RETURN BETOKENED NEITHER DIMINISHED INTEREST IN
CONTINUED DETENTION EIGHT MURDERERS IN EGYPT NOR RESUMPTION NORMAL
AID RELATIONSHIPS. WHILE DISAPPOINTED, ACTING FONMIN EXPRESSED
UNDERSTANDING AND CONFIRMED THAT GOS DESIRES RESUMPTION FULL
RANGE NORMAL CONTACTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ONLY SOME 24 WORKING DAY HOURS AFTER WE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT, ACTING FONMIN (AND MIN CULTURE & INFORMATION) OMAR AL-HAJ MUSA RECEIVED ME FOR CORDIAL INTERVIEW NOVEMBER 16. MUSA APPEARED RELAXED AND MOST FRIENDLY. HE SPOKE OF SUDANESE DIFFICULTIES IN PAST MONTHS OWING TO OIL PRICE HIKES AND GENERAL ECONOMIC WOES. HE CLAIMED AFRICANS HAD INITIALLY SUPPORTED OIL PRICE BOOST AS ARAB WEAPON PUT PRESSURE ON USG BUT ISSUE HAD GOTTEN OUT OF HAND AND WAS UNDERMINING LDC ECONOMIES WHILE PRODUCERS RECEIVING VAST SUMS THEY COULD NOT SPEND (PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS RECENTLY SPOKEN PUBLICLY IN SIMILAR VEIN). MUSA FELT AFRICANS NOW BEGINNING REALIZE GENERAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK EXTREMELY SERIOUS. I RESPONDED WASHINGTON ALSO MOST CONCERNED AS RECENTLY MADE PLAIN BY SECRETARY IN HIS CHICAGO SPEECH, COPY OF WHICH I UNDERTOOK PROVIDE MUSA.

3. TURNING TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, I THEN TOLD MUSA I WAS HAPPY BE BACK AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH MY GOVERNMENT AND LOOKING FORWARD TO RESUMPTION NORMAL OFFICIAL CONTACTS. IT WAS MY IMPRESSION PROCESSING AGREEMENT NEW GOS AMBASSADOR PROCEEDING NORMALLY. AT SAME TIME, I DID NOT WISH HIDE FROM HIM CONTINUING CRITICISM MY GOVERNMENT AND AMERICAN PEOPLE RE GOS ACTION IN RELEASING CONVICTED MURDERERS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY OTHER DAY NEWSMAN IN NEW YORK HAD ASKED WHETHER ARAFAT'S BODYGUARDS INCLUDED KHARTOUM MURDERERS. I STRESSED TO MUSA THAT MY RETURN IN NO WAY DIMINISHED OUR INTEREST IN CONTINUED DETENTION THOSE EIGHT OR IN COMBATTING TERRORISM GENERALLY. NEITHER DID IT IMPLY ANY REVOCATION OF CURRENT "HOLD" ON NEW USG ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, WHICH WE HAD BEEN COMPELLED INSTITUTE IN WAKE GOS ACTION. WE NEVERTHELESS HOPED NORMAL CONTACTS COULD NOW BE RESUMED. THIS CONNECTION, I TOLD MUSA WE WERE PLEASED BE ABLE APPROVE VOLAG REQUEST FOR TRANSFER SMALL QUANTITY FOODSTUFFS FROM SCHOOL FEEDING IN SOUTH TO RECENT FLOOD RELIEF EFFORT THERE. I ALSO TOLD MUSA WE HAD BEEN GRATIFIED AT THE FULL COOPERATION OF GOS IN FACILITATING RELEASE ALL TENNECO HOSTAGES IN SEPTEMBER.

4. MUSA RESPONDED HE HAD NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON MY PRESENTATION. PERSONALLY HE FELT CONTINUED SUSPENSION OUR AID MADE IT APPEAR SUDAN BEING "PUNISHED", PARTICULARLY IN VIEW ITS LEAST DEVELOPED NATION STATUS AND FACT GOS HAD DONE MORE RE TERRORIST

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CASE THAN MOST OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN SIMILAR INSTANCES. HE ADMITTED GOS MIGHT HAVE ACTED DIFFERENTLY HAD SUDAN BEEN LOCATED "NEXT TO SOUTH AFRICA" BUT CLAIMED POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC FACTS OF LIFE HAD MADE IT NECESSARY FOR GOVERNMENTS TAKE ACCOUNT OF ARAB ATTITUDES ON PALESTINE BY RELEASING MURDERERS. MUSA CLAIMED SOME ARABS IN MONTHS FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OUR AID HAD ENDEAVORED GET NIMEIRI TAKE STEPS TO WORSEN RELATIONS WITH US ON GROUND USG EXERTING "PRESSURE" AGAINST SUDAN. NIMEIRI

HAD REFUSED, DENYING PUBLICLY THAT ANY PRESSURE USED.
NIMEIRI REPORTEDLY HAD TOLD HIS ARAB INTERLOCUTORS THAT SUDAN SEEMED
TO BE DISAPPOINTING BOTH SIDES IN TERRORIST CASE.

5. I TOLD MUSA WOULD NOT USE WORD "PUNISHMENT" MYSELF BUT IT
WAS TRUE THAT USG, CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC REMAINED
CONCERNED AT UNACCEPTABLE GOS ACTION. THIS ALL THE MORE TRUE
SINCE ONE OF MURDERED MEN HAD BEEN PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE.
WE HAD HAD REPEATED ASSURANCES FROM GOS AT ALL
LEVELS THAT JUSTICE WOULD BE DONE. MANIFESTLY THIS HAD NOT
HAPPENED. KEY ELEMENT IN PRESERVING FABRIC RELATIONSHIPS AMONG
NATIONS WAS MUTUAL CONFIDENCE THAT GOVERNMENTS MEANT WHAT THEY
SAID. LOOKING SHAMEFACED, MUSA ASSERTED LAMELY THAT USG AS
SUPERPOWER SHOULD OVERLOOK SUCH ACTION ON PART ONE OF WORLD'S
POOREST COUNTRIES. I REITERATED USG ASSISTANCE REMAINING IN
SUSPENSE.

6. MUSA SAID HE WOULD REPORT MY COMMENTS TO PRESIDENT NIMEIRI,
WHO MIGHT WISH SEE ME HIMSELF PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR INDIA NOV 26.
I SAID I WAS NATURALLY AT PRESIDENT'S DISPOSAL.

7. COMMENT: MY "RE-ENTRY" APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WELCOMED
BY SUDANESE EVEN THOUGH THEY COULD HARDLY HAVE EXPECTED ME
TO BEAR GIFTS. SHORT ITEM RE MY CALL ON MUSA WAS FEATURED ON
GOVERNMENT RADIO NOVEMBER 16 AND IN ALL PAPERS NOVEMBER 17. OVERALL
REACTION, INCLUDING MUSA'S COMMENTS, MAKES CLEAR
GOS PLEASED BY THIS USG DECISION. MUSA WAS PERSONALLY
MOST CORDIAL IN WELCOMING ME BACK, EMPHASIZING GOS DESIRE
RESUME FULL RANGE NORMAL TIES AND ENCOURAGING ME CONTACT HIM
PERSONALLY AT ANY TIME AS WE HAVE DONE HERETOFORE.
BREWER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, TOSEC 12
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE253651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: R ELTZ DEW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740332-1092
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741134/aaaabcij.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KHARTOUM 2566 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY SUDANESE ACTING FONMIN
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, US, SU, (MUSA, OMAR AL-HAJ)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005